AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for exchanging shears ~~(3)~~ in the cutting to length of strips ~~(1)~~ or sheet metal in a rolling or transport line ~~(x-x)~~ on a rolling table ~~(2)~~, with blade holders ~~(4, 4')~~, one arranged above and one arranged below the strip ~~(1)~~, the method comprising guiding the ~~which~~ blade holders via ~~are guided by~~ holding elements ~~(5, 5'; 6, 6')~~, ~~wherein~~ moving the shears, ~~(3) can be moved~~ together with the blade holders ~~(4, 4')~~ and with holding elements ~~(5, 5'; 6, 6')~~ for the blade holders, after each cut out of the rolling line laterally ~~(x-x) to the side~~ into a neutral waiting position, while the strip or sheet metal is in the rolling or transport line, and ~~that~~, before moving out the shears ~~(3)~~, opening a forward connection between the blade holders ~~(4, 4')~~ or between the holding elements ~~(6, 6')~~ overlapping the rolling line ~~(x-x) is opened~~, and, only for a

subsequent lateral cut of the strip, moving ~~that~~ the shears ~~(3) for a subsequent cut are moved~~ into the rolling or transport line so as to overlap the rolling or transport line ~~it~~ in a U-shape, wherein ~~and that~~ the forward connection is closed and, by employing a clamping element ~~(7)~~, is form-fit connected and frictionally connected before a subsequent cut, wherein, when moving the shears ~~(3)~~ into the rolling or transport line ~~(x-x)~~, a part ~~(2')~~ of the rolling table ~~(2)~~ is moved laterally out of the rolling or transport line ~~(x-x) to the side~~ and, simultaneously with moving the shears ~~(3)~~ out of the rolling or transport line ~~(x-x)~~ into the waiting position, the part ~~(2')~~ of the rolling table is again moved into the rolling and transport line ~~table~~.

2. (Currently amended) A device for exchanging shears ~~(3)~~ in the cutting to length of strips ~~(1)~~ or sheet metal in a rolling or transport line on a rolling table ~~(2)~~, wherein the shears ~~(3)~~, inclusive of a ~~the~~ drive apparatus ~~(8)~~, are arranged on a rail-guided drive carriage ~~(9)~~ which, while the strip or sheet metal is positioned in the rolling or transport line, is movable by means of a drive ~~(10)~~ transverse to the rolling or transport line ~~(x-x)~~, wherein the shears ~~(3)~~ comprise a U-shaped frame ~~(20)~~ open toward the

rolling or transport line ~~(x-x)~~ and closed at a drive side, on which frame, at the drive side as well as a rolling table side which is opposite the drive side, holding elements ~~(5, 5'; 6, 6')~~ are provided that support blade holders ~~(4, 4')~~, and wherein the drive carriage ~~(9)~~ is coupled with a movable part ~~(2')~~ of the rolling table ~~(2)~~.

3. (Currently amended) A device according to claim 2, wherein the drive carriage ~~(9)~~ at the rolling table side receives at least one clamping element ~~(7)~~ with actuating members ~~(11, 25, 36)~~.

4. (Currently amended) A device according to claim 2, wherein the U-shaped ~~open side of the~~ frame ~~(20)~~ has correlated therewith a clamping element ~~(7)~~ coupled with the holding element ~~(6, 6')~~ at the rolling table side.

5. (Currently amended) A device according to claim 2, wherein a ~~the~~ clamping element ~~(7)~~ is provided with coupling elements ~~(21)~~ that couple with the holding elements ~~(6, 6')~~ of ~~the~~ frame arms of the frame ~~(22, 29)~~.

6. (Currently amended) A device for exchanging shears ~~(3)~~ in

the cutting to length of strips ~~(1)~~ or sheet metal in a rolling or transport line on a rolling table ~~(2)~~, wherein the shears ~~(3)~~, inclusive of a ~~the~~ drive apparatus ~~(8)~~, are arranged on a rail-guided drive carriage ~~(9)~~ which, while the strip or sheet metal is positioned in the rolling or transport line, is movable by means of a drive ~~(10)~~ transverse to the rolling or transport line ~~(x-x)~~, wherein the shears ~~(3)~~ comprise a U-shaped frame ~~(20)~~ open toward the rolling or transport line ~~(x-x)~~ and closed at a drive side, on which frame, at the drive side as well as a rolling table side which is opposite the drive side, holding elements ~~(5, 5'; 6, 6')~~ are provided that support blade holders ~~(4, 4')~~, and wherein the drive carriage ~~(9)~~ is coupled with a movable part ~~(2')~~ of the rolling table ~~(2)~~, wherein at least one of the holding elements ~~element~~ ~~(6)~~ at a free end of an upper, horizontal frame arm ~~(22)~~ comprises at least one pressure plate (23, 23') and a ~~the~~ clamping element ~~(7)~~ has congruent gliding plates ~~(24, 24' and 26, 26')~~ for overlapping the pressure plate ~~them~~, and that the clamping element ~~(7)~~ is movable by force means ~~(25, 25')~~ on a horizontal gliding path ~~(38, 38')~~ with its gliding plates ~~(24, 24' and 26, 26')~~ across the at least one pressure plate ~~plates (23, 23' and 37, 37)~~ for generating a form-fit coupling and a frictional

coupling.

7. (Currently amended) A device for exchanging shears ~~(3)~~ in the cutting to length of strips ~~(1)~~ or sheet metal in a rolling or transport line on a rolling table ~~(2)~~, wherein the shears ~~(3)~~, inclusive of a ~~the~~ drive apparatus ~~(8)~~, are arranged on a rail-guided drive carriage ~~(9)~~ which, while the strip or sheet metal is positioned in the rolling or transport line, is movable by means of a drive ~~(10)~~ transverse to the rolling or transport line ~~(x-x)~~, wherein the shears ~~(3)~~ comprise a U-shaped frame ~~(20)~~ open toward the rolling or transport line ~~(x-x)~~ and closed at a drive side, on which frame, at the drive side as well as a rolling table side which is opposite the drive side, holding elements ~~(5, 5'; 6, 6')~~ are provided that support blade holders ~~(4, 4')~~, and wherein the drive carriage ~~(9)~~ is coupled with a movable part ~~(2')~~ of the rolling table ~~(2)~~, wherein at least one of the holding elements ~~element~~ ~~(6,6')~~ at a ~~the~~ free end of an ~~the~~ upper horizontal frame arm ~~(22)~~ is provided with threaded spindle coupling rods ~~(32, 32')~~ connected so as to be pivotable to both the drive side and the rolling table side ~~sides~~, which, by means of recesses ~~(27, 27')~~, are engageable in congruent coupling sockets ~~(28, 28')~~ of a ~~the~~ lower frame arm ~~(29)~~ or

in the congruent coupling sockets ~~(28, 28')~~ of the ~~upper~~ holding element ~~(6)~~ and adjustable by a force means ~~(30)~~ for generating a form-fit and frictional connection with ~~the aid of~~ their spindle drives ~~(31, 31')~~.

8. (Currently amended) A device for exchanging shears ~~(3)~~ in the cutting to length of strips ~~(1)~~ or sheet metal in a rolling or transport line on a rolling table ~~(2)~~, wherein the shears ~~(3)~~, inclusive of a ~~the~~ drive apparatus (8), are arranged on a rail-guided drive carriage ~~(9)~~ which, while the strip or sheet metal is positioned in the rolling or transport line, is movable by means of a drive ~~(10)~~ transverse to the rolling or transport line ~~(x-x)~~, wherein the shears ~~(3)~~ comprise a U-shaped frame ~~(20)~~ open toward the rolling or transport line ~~(x-x)~~ and closed at a drive side, on which frame, at the drive side as well as a rolling table side which is opposite the drive side, holding elements ~~(5, 5'; 6, 6')~~ are provided that support blade holders ~~(4, 4')~~, and wherein the drive carriage ~~(9)~~ is coupled with a movable part ~~(2')~~ of the rolling table ~~(2)~~, and further comprising a ~~wherein the~~ clamping element ~~(7)~~ correlated transversely to ~~the~~ frame arms, wherein the clamping element ~~(22, 29)~~ can be folded upwardly by means of a joint ~~(34)~~ with a pivot axis ~~(35)~~

extending parallel to the rolling or transport line with the aid of at least one force means ~~(36)~~ for coupling of the two frame arms ~~(22, 29)~~ or folded down for releasing the coupling of the frame arms.